

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A drive power transmission device comprising
first and second cylindrical rotary members coaxially arranged to be rotatable relative
to each other;

a main clutch mechanism composed of plural main outer plates rotatable bodily with
said first cylindrical rotary member and plural main inner plates rotatable bodily with said
second cylindrical rotary member, said main outer plates being arranged in alternate fashion
with said main inner plates each for friction contact with said main inner plates adjacent
thereto;

an electromagnetic ~~type~~ pilot clutch mechanism comprising an armature and an
electromagnet for attracting said armature thereto; and

a cam mechanism operable upon operation of said electromagnetic ~~type~~ pilot clutch
mechanism for bringing said main outer and inner plates into friction contact,

wherein said electromagnetic ~~type~~ pilot clutch mechanism further comprises means
for generating a clutch magnetic path whose magnetic flux passes to reciprocate plural times
across said electromagnetic ~~type~~ pilot clutch mechanism,

wherein the device further comprises a magnetic flux isolation member made of a
non-magnetic material and formed with a circular groove on a surface thereof directed to said
armature, wherein said electromagnetic pilot clutch mechanism further comprises a pilot
inner plate, and arc slits are formed in said pilot inner plate on at least triple circles whose
outermost and innermost circles respectively correspond in diameter to said magnetic flux
isolation member, and

wherein circular slits are formed in said armature.

Claim 7-12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~The device according to claim 6~~ A drive power transmission device comprising

first and second cylindrical rotary members coaxially arranged to be rotatable relative to each other;

a main clutch mechanism composed of plural main outer plates rotatable bodily with said first cylindrical rotary member and plural main inner plates rotatable bodily with said second cylindrical rotary member, said main outer plates being arranged in alternate fashion with said main inner plates each for friction contact with said main inner plates adjacent thereto;

an electromagnetic pilot clutch mechanism comprising an armature and an electromagnet for attracting said armature thereto; and

a cam mechanism operable upon operation of said electromagnetic pilot clutch mechanism for bringing said main outer and inner plates into friction contact,

wherein said electromagnetic pilot clutch mechanism further comprises means for generating a clutch magnetic path whose magnetic flux passes to reciprocate plural times across said electromagnetic pilot clutch mechanism,

wherein the device further comprises a magnetic flux isolation member made of a non-magnetic material and formed with a circular groove on a surface thereof directed to said armature, wherein circular slits are formed in said armature, wherein said electromagnetic pilot clutch mechanism further comprises pilot outer plates, and

arc slits are formed in said pilot outer plate on at least triple circles whose outermost and innermost circles respectively correspond in diameter to said magnetic flux isolation member.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 6, wherein said circular groove is defined by outer and inner cylindrical isolation portions arranged coaxially with each other.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): ~~The device according to claim 14~~ A drive power transmission device comprising

first and second cylindrical rotary members coaxially arranged to be rotatable relative to each other;

a main clutch mechanism composed of plural main outer plates rotatable bodily with said first cylindrical rotary member and plural main inner plates rotatable bodily with said second cylindrical rotary member, said main outer plates being arranged in alternate fashion with said main inner plates each for friction contact with said main inner plates adjacent thereto;

an electromagnetic pilot clutch mechanism comprising an armature and an electromagnet for attracting said armature thereto; and

a cam mechanism operable upon operation of said electromagnetic pilot clutch mechanism for bringing said main outer and inner plates into friction contact,

wherein said electromagnetic pilot clutch mechanism further comprises means for generating a clutch magnetic path whose magnetic flux passes to reciprocate plural times across said electromagnetic pilot clutch mechanism.

wherein the device further comprises a magnetic flux isolation member made of a non-magnetic material and formed with a circular groove on a surface thereof directed to said armature, wherein circular slits are formed in said armature, wherein said circular groove is defined by outer and inner cylindrical isolation portions arranged coaxially with each other, wherein said electromagnetic ~~type~~ pilot clutch mechanism further comprises a pilot inner plate, and

arc slits are formed in said pilot inner plate on at least triple circles whose outermost and innermost circles respectively correspond in diameter to said outer and inner cylindrical portions of said magnetic flux isolation member,

said magnetic flux isolation member being arranged in axial alignment with said pilot inner plate, with said outer and inner cylindrical portions respectively facing said arc slits on said outermost circle and said arc slits on said innermost circle of said pilot inner plate.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 15, wherein said electromagnetic ~~type~~ pilot clutch mechanism further comprises pilot outer plates, and

arc slits are formed in said pilot outer plates on at least triple circles whose outermost and innermost circles respectively correspond in diameter to said outer and inner cylindrical portions of said magnetic flux isolation member,

said magnetic flux isolation member being arranged in axial alignment with said pilot outer plate, with said outer and inner cylindrical portions respectively facing said arc slits on said outermost circle and said arc slits on said innermost circle of said pilot outer plate.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim ~~[[12]]~~ 6, wherein said pilot inner plate is given diamond-like carbon surface treatment or soft-nitriding surface treatment.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim ~~[[12]]~~ 6, wherein said pilot outer plate is given diamond-like carbon surface treatment or soft-nitriding surface treatment.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 6, wherein the electromagnetic ~~type~~ pilot clutch mechanism has an inner cylindrical portion and outer cylindrical portion, the magnetic flux isolation member is interposed between the inner and outer cylindrical portions.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 19, wherein the magnetic flux isolation member is made of stainless steel and welded to the inner and outer cylindrical portions.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 19, wherein the magnetic flux isolation member is made of copper and cast between the inner and outer cylindrical portions.